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Special Political and Decolonization Committee
(Fourth Committee)

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Note by the Secretariat

The attention of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) is drawn to the following provisions of General Assembly resolution 71/323, as highlighted in the first report of the General Committee (A/72/250), which was considered by the Assembly at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 15 September 2017:

(a) Paragraph 20 of the resolution, in which the General Assembly reaffirmed existing relevant mandates related to the improvement of the working methods of the Main Committees, including section C of the annex to resolution 58/316, paragraphs 7 to 13 of resolution 59/313, cluster III of the annex to resolution 60/286 and resolution 69/321, in particular paragraphs 16 and 17 thereof (see A/72/250, para. 13);

(b) Paragraph 21 of the resolution, in which the Assembly requested each Main Committee to further discuss its working methods at the beginning of every session, and invited the Chairs of the Main Committees to brief the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly during the seventy-second session on any best practices and lessons learned (ibid., para. 15);

(c) The relevant provision contained in resolution 71/323 concerning the interim arrangement adopted in decision 68/505 recommending the pattern for the rotation of the Chairs of the Main Committees for the sixty-ninth to the seventy-third sessions, as well as the guidelines on the election of the Chairs and Rapporteurs of the Main Committees as contained in the annex to resolution 68/307 (ibid., para. 19);

(d) The relevant provisions contained in resolution 68/307 relating to the request of the General Assembly to the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly to prepare long-term arrangements concerning the election of the Chairs and Rapporteurs of the Main Committees of the Assembly with the aim of establishing a predictable, transparent and fair mechanism, in consultation with regional groups, and to submit them to the Assembly no later than at the seventy-second session (ibid., para. 19);

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(e) Paragraph 31 of resolution 71/323, in which the Assembly recalled rules 153 and 154 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and encouraged the Chairs of the Main Committees and the Secretary-General to ensure observance of those rules, within their respective mandates (ibid., para. 64);

(f) Paragraph 38 of resolution 71/323, in which the Assembly reiterated its invitation to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the Chairs of the Main Committees, in consultation with the General Committee and Member States, to enhance the coordination of the scheduling of the meetings of the Assembly, including high-level meetings and high-level thematic debates, with a view to optimizing their interactivity, effectiveness and distribution throughout the session, and to consider ways to decrease the number of high-level events held during the general debate (ibid., para. 29);

(g) Paragraph 44 of resolution 71/323, in which the Assembly encouraged Member States to seek gender balance in the distribution of Chairs and bureau members of the Main Committees (ibid., para. 20);

(h) Paragraph 49 of resolution 71/323, in which the Assembly encouraged Member States to make, to the extent possible, full use of the e-services provided by the Secretariat, in order to save costs, reduce the environmental impact and improve the distribution of documents and in that regard requested the Secretariat to further improve, harmonize and, where appropriate, unify such e-services, including by making available all the official correspondence of the United Nations addressed to Members States (ibid., para. 56).